REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-9 and 11 are presently active, and Claims 1-7 and 10 are withdrawn from further consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kuwajima et al. (US 6,751,064).

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds for rejection, because in Applicants' view, independent Claims 8 and 11 patentably distinguish over Kuwajima et al.

The outstanding Office Action acknowledges that Kuwajima et al. does not disclose "a plurality of projections which bulge from said support arm and are in point contact with the bearing portion," as recited in Claims 8 and 11. Nevertheless, the outstanding Office Action states that the projections described in Kuwajima et al. produces the same functional movement, and therefore, it would have been obvious to have provided the projection on the support art in point contact with the bearing portion, in substitution of the opposite configuration (Office Action at page 3, lines 1-6). Further, the outstanding Office Action states that Applicants have not provided any unobvious or unexpected results to persuade the Examiner in this regard (Office Action at page 4, lines 4-5).

Applicants respectfully submit that the invention recited in Claim 8 provides unexpected results relative to Kuwajima et al. as below.

First, since the projection bulges from the support arm, the top of projection is in point contact with the bearing portion. Thus, the pressure applied to the top of the projection is distributed or deconcentrated on the support arm through the projection. Therefore, a concentrated pressure is not applied to a localized area of the support arm, and deformation of

the support arm can be reduced. The specification of the present application at page 14, line 13 through page 15, line 12 discloses:

> Furthermore, since the projection serving as a load generating portion bulges from the load beam, the top of the projection is in point contact with an external member. Thus, the pressure applied to the top of the projection will be distributed or deconcentrated on the load beam through a flared portion (i.e. a portion having an enlarged diameter) of the projection. Therefore, a concentrated load will not be applied to a localized area of the load beam, and so deformation of the load beam can be prevented. ... When an impact corresponding to the limit value is applied to the load beam via the projection, an impact force will be applied instantaneously to the load beam at the portion around the projection (i.e. at the peripheral portion of the projection). In this case, if the diameter of the projection is enlarged, a limited area in which the impact is received is enlarged, so that a stress created by the impact can be reduced. Thus, it is possible to limit the stress within the range that would cause only elastic deformation of the material that composes the load beam.

Thus, the magnetic recording apparatus recited in Claim 8 enables to maintain stable performance of the support arm by providing the plurality of projections which bulge from the support arm and are in point contact with the bearing portion.

Instead, in Kuwajima et al., since the bosses (projections) 11a and 11b are bulged from the pivot pedestal 11 and the top of the bosses 11a and 11b are in point contact with the support arm 2, the pressure applied to the projection is concentrated on a localized area of the support arm 2, with which the top of the projection contacts, and therefore, the support arm 12 may be easily damaged.

Accordingly, the invention recited in Claim 8 provides unexpected result relative to Kuwajima et al.

Second, Kuwajima et al. shows that the bosses (projections) 11a and 11b are bulged from the pivot pedestal 11 (a flange). Generally, a flange consists of a thick and hard plate. Since it is difficult to mold such a thick and hard plate, it is necessary to find a relatively thin

portion of the flange to bulge projections therefrom. This makes design of the flange and the projection difficult.

Instead, according to the invention recited in Claim 8, the projections are bulged from the support arm, which generally comprises a thinner plate than the flange (see, for example, Fig. 1 of the present application). Therefore, it enables to lower the molding pressure and increase a molding precision, and makes it easier to form small projections at desired portions of the support arm. Further, an additional strength of the support arm is obtained by the projections. These results cannot be obtained by Kuwajima et al.

Accordingly, the invention recited in Claim 8 provides unexpected result relative to Kuwajima et al.

Similar arguments as those set forth above apply to Claim 11.

Accordingly, independent Claims 8 and 11 patentably distinguish over Kuwajima et al. Therefore, Claims 8 and 11 and the pending Claim 9 dependent from Claim 8 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussions, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8-9 and 11. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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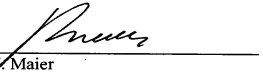

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